

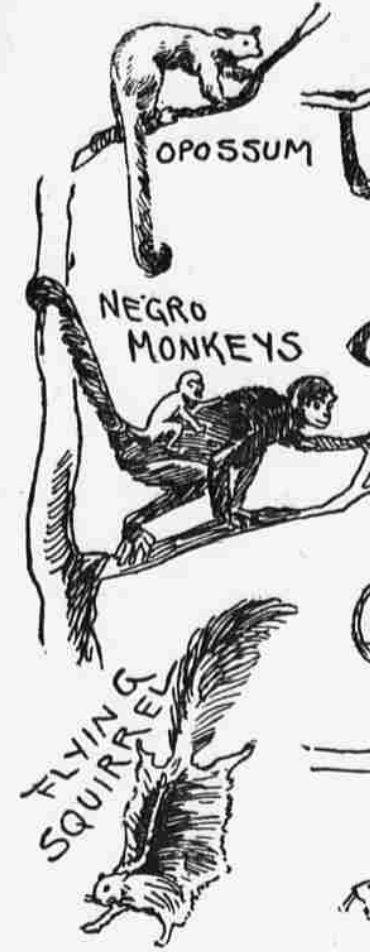
A STUDY OF TAILS.

Many Varied Uses to Which the Caudal Appendage Is Put.

Respirator and Fur Boa in the Arctic, a Fan in the Tropics.

A Weapon of Defense and an Aid to Navigation.

If things were as they should be (which happily is not the case, else Radical Journalism would be a part of the inaccuracy of the Royal Caudological Society of Great Britain. Seeing, however, that the Society has no present existence, I will take the liberty of appointing the members of this journal as provisional members for the nonce, and give them a



short introduction to the study of tails, says the *Pall Mall Budget*. Compared with its colleagues the tail is a very remarkable organ, among the members, and a mere list of its accomplishments would, if complete, occupy the space of several articles. In the Arctic regions it is a respirator and a fur boa in one, for the white fox curls its bushy tail over its nose and throat and sleeps snugly with the thermometer 50 below zero. In the torrid zone it may become a fan. With the whale and crocodile it is a powerful weapon of defense, and in the case of the latter animal and also of the



whale's arch-enemy, the thresher, of attack. The kangaroo uses its tail as a fifth leg, but the ambition of the organ (if we may so speak) not satisfied with playing this part, causes it to assume the function of a balancing pole when the animal leaps; and it is said, I do not know with what amount of truth, that a freshly and completely decapitated kangaroo turns half somersaults, and alights on its head every time it tries to jump forward. The same intendant, an Antipodean friend with a nimble imagination and an admirable readiness to impart knowledge, tells me that this beast also uses its tail to make a rich flourishing soup for the comfort of the weary stockman or wayfarer; here, and there appears to be some allusion here, and I fear that I must have missed one important step in the narration, or else that my friend was a careless observer of natural phenomena. Among fishes and fish-like mammals, the tail is the chief means of propulsion through the water. Birds use it as a rudder, and also as an inclined plane in sliding up and down currents of air in the summer that Mr. Maxim is trying to invent. The tail is also among the feathered generation, and in a few instances among mammals, wonderfully varied and diverse, used for artistic purposes, and in the peacock and others of the gallinaceous

tribe especially is the chief ornament when the cock bird goes a courting. An extreme instance of this is seen in certain Japanese fowls which have tail-feathers upward of ten feet long. Several of these can be seen in the South Kensington Natural History Museum. To the opossums and platyrrhine apes the tail is an extra hand, and among many members of the squirrel tribe it acts as a parachute. In numberless instances this organ is a wonderfully effective means of defense against voracious and stinging insects, as any one can observe in watching the



never-ceasing rhythmic swing of the tails of cattle grazing in the summer or the quick beating and swishing of those of more sensitive horses. How automatic this action is can be observed on Lady's Hill any hour of the year, as the whip drops on the panting luns or cab horses an instant almost inevitable swish follows. When for the moment is regarded as a troublesome and gigantic "cleg" who



can be beaten off or intimidated by a jerk of the horn and doctored remnant of a weapon which is left to his victim; and doubtless the knotted porpoise-like shoelace with the cab horse is usually stimulated and encouraged (was it not the immortal Artemus who "fastened a horse's tail to his horse's tail to kinder his encourage him?") is regarded as the "hot end" which a two-year-old child of my acquaintance stated to exist in a "big fly" which he caught in the garden. The Americans have a phrase which expresses graphically the importance of a tail for this purpose, for they say, to express a degree of frantic exasperation, that the irritated one is "as mad as a stump-tailed bull m'fy time."



tail is conspicuous, and the reason not so plain. An Englishman hunting deer in Texas was frequently charmed to observe how the white and black and white "flag" twinkling for a moment as the animal plunked into the dense under-wood. Like the snowfall on the river—A moment white, then gone forever, and, embittered by an empty bag, he came to the conclusion that the tail of the deer was designed by Providence as a means of mocking and disgusting its would-be captors. Every one who has walked out by a hedge-side in the still twilight has seen something small and white go bob-bobbing away from him, and at last vanish in the bushes. If the light is sufficient it



not to trudge on the ground of a possible paper on "The Tail in Relation to Altruism," which may engage the attention of the Caudological Society, will only allow me to touch the fringe of it. Naturalists say that it is satisfactorily proved that the conspicuous tail of the rabbit and murine social animal is a danger signal for the benefit of the community. A dozen rabbits are out nibbling asparagus at different distances from the bridge or warren which is their place of refuge on a dark night. A fox, man or other laudible head approaches. Generally the rabbit furthest out in the field first becomes aware of the danger, and he canters in towards the place of safety. As he passes he fellows the white tail, plainly seen even when the nocturnal shadow is thickest, tells them that "something is up," and for precaution's sake they run in, too. Even the measure and nearness of the peril can be conveyed in this way. A quickly-moving and vibrating white spot means a scuttling gallop and "danger" urgent and imminent, while slow up-and-down bobs of the visible tail indicate a loping canter and might stand for "caution" in the rabbit's signal code. Now, consider this: the animal is conspicuous to its own detriment for the good of the race. Here, if I mistake not, are the elements of altruism if not of socialistic Christian morality, and to those who urge that it is unconscious and automatic I would put the question: How much of your earthly higher self-sacrifice is free from suspicion of automatism and reflex causation?



It is when we come to take note of the tail as a means of expressing emotion and communicating more complicated ideas that the subject really opens out and becomes enthralling. This, however, plainly belongs to the Society's sub-section for the study of Caudal Psychology, and it would be unfair to take the bread out of the mouth of the professor of this department before he is appointed. I will content myself, therefore, with throwing a few questions which may form material for cogitation among intending members and associates of the Society. Why does a dog wag his tail? Why does he clasp it when dejected? Why does he clasp it between his legs when terrified? Why does he bristle it out when hostile? If any one can answer these questions fully and satisfactorily without writing a big and exceedingly interesting book I shall be much surprised. It has been said that the most plastic and variable organs offer the best field for investigation to those who are on the lookout for the merging or variation of species. The teeth have been studied in this aspect with marked and signal success. Why, then, may I ask in concluding, the extraordinary neglect of this most mobile and versatile organ of all? The only writer on the subject whose name I am acquainted with is my friend William Fothergill, of Darlington. Let some one of our many ambitious embryo Darwinians find in this vocation, and become a specialist in tails. Fame would wait on him to a certain and perhaps honors as well, for "President of the Royal Caudological Society" is in itself no mean title, and if the proper amount of cash were forthcoming the steps to a baronetcy would be an easy sequence.

DEATHS IN BROOKLYN.

The following is the official list containing the name of every person in Brooklyn over ten years old whose death was reported to the Department of Health yesterday: OLIVIA BERNSON, 31, No. 334 Douglas st.; WILLIAM BERNSON, 70, No. 123 North st.; JAMES BRITT, 66, No. 42 Willow place; JOHN H. CRETEN, 49, Glenmore ave., near Barren; SARAH A. HANSON, 50, No. 142 Havemeyer st.; GEORGE HANSON, 70, No. 142 Havemeyer st.; JERMAN LEVY, 68, No. 1 Jackson court; laborer; HENRY LOEB, 27, No. 26 Broome st.; insurance agent; ANN LUDLOW, 70, No. 255 Manhat st.; JAMES J. MADDON, 15, No. 46th st.; EMILY SILLMAN MATTHEWS, 13, No. 133 Montague st.; ANNE MILLER, 17, St. Catherine's Hospital; EDWARD B. ROSE, 47, St. Catherine's Hospital; WILLIAM E. MORRISON, 26, No. 38 Henry st.; CLARA; MARGARET McWHINNEY, 59, No. 529 Lafayette st.; MARGARET O'CONNOR, 34, Home for Consumptives; MARIA M. OEST, 28, No. 653 Classon ave.; SUSAN R. KENNEDY, 75, No. 99 South Oxford st.; ANNE SCHMIDT, 75, No. 407 Graham ave.; laborer; FRANK SLOWEY, 65, No. 21 North Henry st.; IDA FRANKS WICKER, 35, No. 91 Polaris st.; JOHN S. STILES, 60, No. 506 Park ave.; medical doctor.

OUTWITTED THE CRANK.

The late millionaire Roberts Saved His Life and His Money. The late Marshall O. Roberts was once called upon to deal with a crank in whose mental disorder there was much method, and to deal with him quickly. He got rid of the fellow in a characteristic way. It was on a Summer evening and Roberts was the only person left in the offices, with the exception of the porter, who was on the lower floor, says an exchange. An impecunious individual got admission to the building somehow and found his way to the millionaire's presence. He leveled a pistol at the latter's head and said coolly: "Give me a hundred or I'll fire, mister, for I'm down on my luck." "Surely you wouldn't kill a man for a party hundred," said Roberts, whose nerves were as cool as his widow's Angolanian is pronounced. "I'm myself in luck to-day, but all my ready money has gone into the bank. Suppose I give you a check for double the sum." This suited the freebooter, and a check for \$200 was duly made out on the Chelsea bank. At the vista's suggestion it was made payable to bearer. The transaction closed, the jayce took his departure, no doubt well satisfied with his day's work. When he got to the sidewalk Mr. Roberts closed his desk and went home equally well satisfied. He had bought immunity from sudden and violent death with a check on the Chelsea, a bank that had ceased to do business several years before.

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A pure cream of baking powder, superior to all in leavening strength.—Lafayette Food Report. Corvallis, Ore.—THE WORLD ALMANAC is a perfect storehouse of facts and information.—J. Burnet.

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In THE EVENING WORLD SPORTING EXTRA you will find

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IT COVERS THE WHOLE FIELD.

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"THE TURF" is a daily column in THE EVENING WORLD Sporting Extra. It is a most interesting department to all followers of racing events, presenting, as it does, general racing news, notes and commentaries; information as to the condition of horses named for coming events, and timely tips on racers whose form makes them worthy the attention of speculators. Prepared by a special writer.

SPORTING GOSSIP, attractively presented, is a daily feature of THE EVENING WORLD Sporting Extra. The general news and announcements of the athletic clubs, the latest developments and promised events in pugilism, aquatics and all general sports are found in this department, which is always up to the times and up to the readers' demand. All prepared by a special writer.

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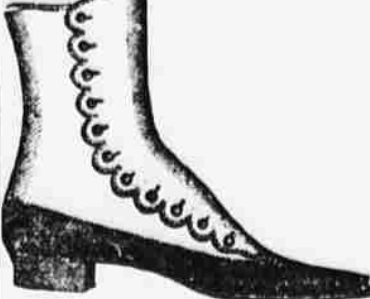
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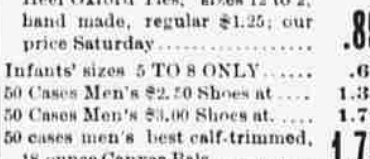
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